Natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and hurricanes do not only claim dead or injured people, they also often damage the infrastructure. It is the task of the UNDAC team as the first foreign rescue crew to go to the crisis area and enable the aid workers from all over the world to work safely.

Klaus Maurer, head of the Hamburg Fire Brigade, is one of roughly 170 UNDAC members worldwide. His bags are basically packed at all times, since he has to arrive in the crisis area within 12 to 24 hours in order to get an overview about the situation. His main task is to identify the most pressing needs and to coordinate the international rescue teams so that the respective areas can be supported adequately. In his talk on 18 December 2014, Klaus Maurer will present the work of the UNDAC team as well as comment on disaster prevention and the benefits of scientific prediction systems.